

### Recreation Department Trains Future Leaders

The Torrance Recreation Department has found a way to beat the shortage of recreation leaders. High school juniors and seniors, who show an interest in recreation, physical education or public welfare, are being recruited for the job and trained by the department itself. Because the shortage is particularly acute during the summer when recreational activities are at their height, the student leaders are put right to work on the parks and playgrounds, at the same time receiving classroom instruction.



DARRELL BREWER and his orchestra will play here Saturday night in conjunction with the community-wide civic center celebration. The dance, which will be held around the pool side of the new swimming pool, is free and open to the public. It will start at 8:15 p.m. and last until midnight.

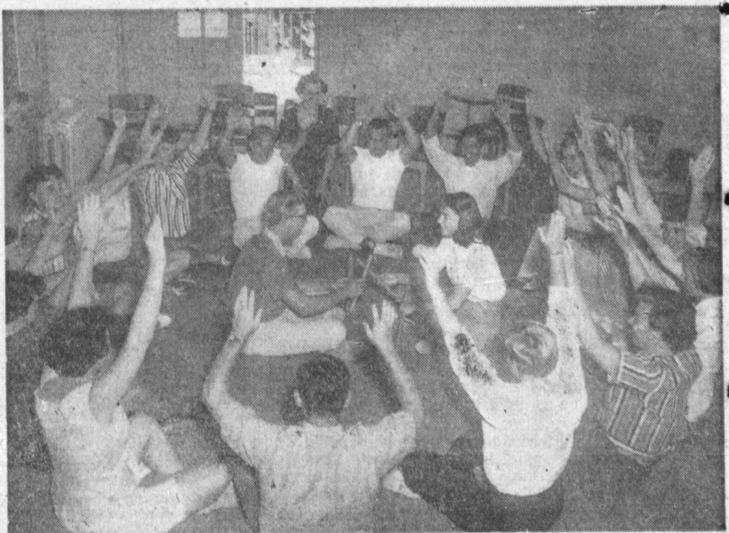
Marilyn Jensen, director of women's activities for the department, is in charge of the class which is part of the summer school program at Torrance High. Instruction lasts six weeks, 10 hours a week. There are 21 youngsters participating.

One of the great advantages of working with teenage leaders, recreation officials pointed out, is that the youngsters are flexible, eager, and interested — enabling the department to develop the style of leadership it wants and needs.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Foster, of 4510 W. 231st St., announce the birth of a son, Thomas Lee, weighing 6 pounds and 2 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. Linden H. Comstock, of 3327 Dalemead St., announce the birth of a son, Gary Linden, weighing 8 pounds and 3 ounces.

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INDIAN CHANT

Youngsters receiving training as recreational leaders here try out an Indian chant. Marilyn Jensen, their instructor, observes (near door).—Press Photo.

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### CHOW UNDER OBSERVATION

Black Jack, the pet chow who mauled little 3-year-old Carolyn Lacey of 3330 Newton st. last week, is still under observation at South Bay Humane Society.

The dog has not shown signs of rabies. He will remain under observation for another week.

HARDLY A MINUTE GOES BY, but what someone doesn't get some benefit from the Want Ads. Start benefiting today by calling FA. 8-2345 to place your ad.

### Douglas Man Has War Medals From All Over

John V. Thompson's 350 war medals would ordinarily qualify him as a top-ranking hero, but he hastens to point out that he's not a military man, but a collector.

The medals date back to the mid-Nineteenth century, which readily explains that they were awarded to somebody else.

Welfare department manager for Douglas Aircraft's El Segundo division, Thompson started collecting war medals on a 'round-the-world junket in 1932. He had always been interested in world history, and found a natural outlet for his interest in medal collections. He has an envious collection of medals from Germany, Russia, China, Great Britain, France, Japan, Italy, and the United States.

His first medals were bought from pawn shops in England, by weight, and he admits he got a good bargain. Times have changed, though, and realizing the interest in medals, pawn brokers have raised their prices considerably, Thompson laments.

The bulk of his medals are from Great Britain and include many from the British-Boer War, and the Egyptian campaign. During the Boer War, Great Britain awarded 26 bars for as many campaigns. John has 25 and has confidence he'll find the twenty-sixth some day.

Top medal of the British, comparable to our Congressional Medal of Honor, is the Victoria Cross. Thompson has one, and treasures it as one of the best in his collection. It was given to him by the family of the man who received it, and to date he has not divulged the name of the medal winner.

Among his coveted United States medals are those dating back to the Civil War and the Indian Wars.

Each of his medals is engraved with the name of the military man who received it, as well as the campaign for which it was received.

The medals are colorful, and Thompson says that they are mostly just to look at. Once in awhile, however, they become useful, he points out. There was the time, for example, he was contacted by an ex-British soldier who had had his own medals stolen and needed a set to wear in a parade. Thompson loaned him medals which identically matched those he had received in combat. Sometime later, Thompson was in a pawn shop in Los Angeles and found the stolen medals with the soldier's name engraved on them. He purchased them, and returned them to their rightful owner.

"There's a story behind each individual medal," Thompson says, "and collecting them is a fascinating and educational pastime."

### Olympics Movie To Be Shown

A movie, entitled "Winter Olympics—1956," is going to be shown on Monday night, August 13 at 7:30 p.m. at McMaster park on 3624 W. 174th Street in Torrance.

After the showing, Norman McKay will talk about the Olympic games.

The program will be under the sponsorship of the Torrance Recreation Department.

### Decorate Residences Requested

Residents along Torrance Blvd. have been asked to display their flags and decorations Saturday and Sunday in honor of the civic center dedication and celebration.

There will be a parade starting at 10:30 and lasting until 12 noon which will come down Torrance Blvd. from Portola to the new civic center site at Maple Ave.

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